

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). The claims are not being amended. This listing, rather, is presented for the convenience of the reader.

1. (previously presented) A method of selling products online by a plurality of stores based on a product catalog that comprises information on a plurality of products, the method comprising:

managing information regarding non-available products in each store, the non-available product being a product that is out of stock; and

when a purchaser selects a non-available product from the product catalog of one store, introducing the purchaser to another store in which the product selected by the purchaser is available; and

updating the information regarding non-available products in each store using selection of a product catalog by a purchaser as a trigger.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising managing information regarding stock shortage products for each store, the stock shortage product being a product that is out of stock in one particular store but that is available in another store,

wherein the purchaser is introducing to another store based on the information regarding the stock shortage products.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising updating the information regarding the stock shortage products for each store using selection of a product from the product catalog by the purchaser as a trigger.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising payment of fee by the another store to which the purchaser has been introduced to the store

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